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Annual ministerial review: implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to sustainable development

Statement submitted by Oasis Open City Foundation, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2008/100.

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Statement

The present report includes recommendations related to the theme of the Coordinated Segment to Sustainable Development for local and regional planning, as endorsed by the Economic and Social council. The permanent forum was organized by FOCA with Open City International Foundation Inc. with the participation of national and international, State and Federal authorities, Municipalities, universities, practitioners and organizations of civil society, to fulfil the Open City concept. Through this Forum an Open City Declaration was adopted and focused on the role of partnerships in sustaining development, improving regional capacity, facing global challenges and achieving the 7th Millennium Development Goal.

Open City Paris Declaration: Foreword

- The need to ensure the implementation of ECOSOC's recommendations;
- The need to have tools to evaluate approaches and results of projects following ECOSOC's recommendations;
- The urgent need to approve and divulge approaches following ECOSOC's recommendations that become models to be replicated worldwide;
- The need for urgent action on behalf of world sustainability;
- FOCA with Open City International Foundation Inc. created a "Partnership for Results" permanent forum with several workshops and virtual conferences, studying cases, analyzing common factors of success and failures among implemented projects, looking for transversal approaches.
- These statement present recommendations consolidated with partners in two of the workshops, respectively, in Lisbon and in Paris, as approaches to be followed on projects on behalf of sustainable development.

Recommendations:

1. Partnerships have to build forms of effective cooperation among institutions, business organizations, civil society, to create growth and employment, researching new forms of civil development and human possibilities for contributing to the Millennium Development Goals.

2. In order to succeed, partnerships for sustainable development have to incorporate in their strategies the civic competence and the entrepreneurial spirit as engines of progress and evolution to enhance democratic development.

3. Local as well transnational associative forms for working together towards common, measurable objectives and results have to be priorities.

4. There is positive correlation between citizenship, economic development and democratic civic life. Citizenship is to be considered in approaches and actions as the major strategic component for getting results.

5. At all levels a new type of education towards a common concept of democratic development has to be considered. This education cannot be left to improvisation but it has to be built over time because it is a fusion of "awareness" and "understanding" of democratic and sustainable development which takes time to be

assimilated. Therefore, education for development and for cooperation should start in schools.

6. Economic activities have to be based on the principles of responsibility, solidarity and sustainability as an answer to the problems caused by current social and environmental problems.

7. Business activities have to integrate environmental and social issues.

8. Leading companies have a new task for discharging Corporate Social Responsibility as an innovative function to become leaders of the civil society.

9. New Agro-ecological approaches integrated with new, processes and techniques have to be identified, promoted and supported for reaching the necessary critical amounts to face global markets but also promote social inclusions and environmental sustainability. The model of monoculture which is dependent on chemical additives and generates social exclusion and does not consider food supply has in many places reached the point of diminishing returns so new models are needed.

10. Initiatives demonstrating a previous territorial analysis and research and adequate planning must be privileged as there is no more space for community actions that are not integrated in a wider plan. The risk of failure is too high.

11. Any local economic development approach has to consider and assure all the productive chain: social organization, environmental impact, industrial value added, world marketing position and market linking.

12. There is the need to capacitate public managers and social actors to territorial planning taking in considerations the social, environmental and the economic dimension and the global perspective.

13. Housing is part of the development process. House policies have to be planned integrated with economic offers to avoid urban concentrations above a certain limit.

14. House policies have to consider the urgent inclusion of the sustainability of natural resources (water and energy) in the building process. Tools for adequacy of existing buildings have to be considered.

15. Agro-industry networks should be formed by agriculture families and organized in association or cooperatives as the main path to face most of nowadays challenges. Network of organized families capacitate to produce with equal quality are able to assure the needed food supply, turn neglected rural areas into productive areas, keep people on rural areas preventing social exclusion and impacts of "big metropolis", maximizing the added value of local products. These networks are an important tool for sustainable development.